

**Committee Notes – Joint Meeting**  
**Security Committee- Hollywood Entertainment District, Sunset and Vine BID**  
**September 8, 2011** **Held at W Hotel, Hollywood**

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Attendance: HED Committee Members Present: John Tronson, Chairperson; Thaddeus Smith, Dan Chismire, Carol Massie. Not Present: Jim McPartlin and Mark Supper. SVBID Committee Members Present: None. Not Present: Fred Rosenthal, Chairperson; Fabio Conti, Patrick Olmstead, Roxanna Sassanian. Liaisons: Steve Seyler, Joe Salazar, Mike Harkins, and Bill Farrar Andrews International; Deputy Thompson, Deputy Rivas, LASD; Captain Beatrice Girmala, Lt. Oreb, Officer Danny Pesqueira, Officer Irv Isabella, LAPD; Staff: Kerry Morrison, Joe Mariani Jr., Hollywood Property Owners Alliance. Guests: Allison Kettlety, Anthony Bell, Space 1520; Jose Bermudez, Manny, W Hotel Security.

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair John Tronson at 10:10 a.m.
- II. Public Comment: No Public Comment
- III. Meeting Notes: The committee approved their meeting notes from July 14, 2011.
- IV. Reports

A. Report from Andrews International: Andrews' officers have continued to stay active in the area. Seyler reported that the BID was approached for help by the property owner of the vacant apartments at Selma and Highland. The location, which both BID patrol and LAPD have responded to on multiple occasions, had become a trespassing magnet. The owner needed support from the community to obtain a demolition permit from the City. Seyler put together a document for the owner that showed over 90 occasions where BID Security officers had responded to the location. The developer did obtain the permit and recently completed demolition of the building. Seyler stated that this is just one of the ways Andrews tries to be problem solvers in the community.

On the homeless front, Officers have identified homeless individuals in the area and have worked with the VA and other service agencies to get them off the street and into permanent supportive housing. During his report Seyler mentioned two individuals who Andrews, with the help of Social Services at Blessed Sacrament, were able to get off the streets and into housing. The company was also able to help these individuals find work as security guards.

As for enforcement, Seyler mentioned that the arrests for this year are slightly up compared to last year. Andrews' officers were able to apprehend a wanted Bank Robber in the Sunset and Vine BID and detain the individual until the LAPD arrived to arrest him. The two officers who engaged the suspect were given commendations by the LAPD for their great work.

1. Education of Stakeholders: Joe Mariani informed the committee that cards had been produced by the BID and will soon be handed out by Andrews Officers to the businesses in the two BIDs to remind them to call LAPD before BID Security. These cards were produced

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after a discussion with LAPD, to remind stakeholders of the different roles of BID Security and the LAPD.

B. Report from LAPD: Captain Girmala reported that the LAPD has noticed an increase in calls, a great majority of which revolve around transient related issues. Additionally, the officers have noticed an increased amount of parolees in the area, and the Parolee Impact Team (PIT) has been deployed in Hollywood. This team is the first of its kind and focuses solely on the parolee population. The Captain also noted that “homeless encampments and crime clusters seem to go hand in hand, as there are currently criminal homeless mingled in the homeless population.” These crimes are occurring primarily just inside the BID areas, and some outside of it. In debriefs with suspects after arrests, the Captain said, “that it seems many of these folks are coming to Hollywood to utilize Social Services at Blessed Sacrament.” The Captain and the PIT went through the center last week and made three arrests. The Captain stated that she noticed while walking through the center that there were several people there under the influence of narcotic substances, and these are folks that will not go out and get a job after. The Captain went on and said she believed these individuals are being enabled by such services, saying that the center had become a “food line with a roof.” The Captain also mentioned that Deputy Chief McCarthy and her superiors are very much aware of the center and have great concern for the safety of individuals in the area, and the children at the two neighboring elementary schools. Lt. Oreb distributed a map to show that the trends in the area, which showed an increase in transient aggravated assaults. LAPD does not want businesses to run away from Hollywood because of this issue. The Captain asked for the committee’s support in backing her on asking the center to develop better regulation of their clientele. John Tronson informed the Captain that the committee is here to help and that the staff could provide her with an email list of today’s attendees to further ask for their support.

C. Report from LA Sheriff’s Department: Deputy Rivas reported that the Sheriff’s department is currently going through a resource shift. A deployment change is currently in the works, which could result in the certain areas having deputies for longer periods of time. Deputy Rivas also mentioned that the Sheriffs have noticed an uptick in parolees riding the Metro lines. A notable population has been found at Union Station illegally riding the Metrolink trains from Lancaster into other parts of the City. The Department’s detectives have been working on this issue and Sheriffs are doing what they can to prevent this from occurring. Lastly, since the Red Line stabbing incident last month, all lines now have full staffing with additional resources on the weekend.

## **VI. New Business**

A. Discussion Regarding Possible Use of BID Security Courtesy Notes: Mariani shared with the board a “courtesy note” from Downtown BID Security that was recently forwarded to him by Brian Folb. The notes are designed to alert patrons in the BID as to when they have left their window down on their vehicle or other action that could prompt a theft. Both the LAPD and BID Security shared with the board that the notes are polite, but could actually draw more attention to the open vehicles. LAPD suggested it would be a better idea for the BID to create general flyers that remind people to lock their vehicles and distribute them throughout the area. Officer Pesqueira also said that LAPD cadets could be used to distribute the flyers.

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#### **V. Old Business**

A. Briefing on Marijuana Ordinance: Mariani informed the committee that he spoke with Arsen at Council District 13 and it appears that the recent increase in medical marijuana clinics in the City has occurred due to the fact that the City Attorney has been unable to close these clinics as the latest revision of the medical marijuana ordinance is facing another lawsuit. Until the court rules on the case, the City's hands seemed to be tied behind their back. Bill Farrar suggested the staff speak with Jeff Briggs to see if a civil recourse could be done. Angela Motta also suggested that she would see if a task force could be formed with the City Attorney in order to see what could be done.

B. Update on Activities Related to Community Impact Team/Sidewalk Nuisance Abatement: Morrison said the committee will be meeting on September 21 and will be focusing on tour bus regulation. Morrison and Mariani will also be attending a meeting with LADOT downtown on Friday (9/9) to see if there is a way to create staging areas for busses off the boulevard. The Community Impact team will also be looking at the state statute which currently facilitates sales of tours on the public right of way, to see if any changes could be made.

C. Security Cameras/Vacant Properties: The LAPD camera at Whitley and Hollywood is now up and running again thanks to the board's purchase of a new transmitter. Also, a couple vacant properties that had become crime issues for the BID have been demolished. This includes the Selma/Highland apartments and the KFWB News Building. Mariani also reported that CIM had purchased the Sunset/Gordon property and is planning on developing the site in the near future.

D. Homeless Update: Kerry Morrison reminded the committee that a lot has been done over the past 5 years to remove the "fear of the homeless population" from the community's eyes. In just a few months the Villas at Gower will be opening and applications were taken a month and a half ago for future residents of the building. This building will be the first example of Permanent Supportive Housing in the Hollywood community. Additionally, in the coming weeks, the findings from the 2011 LAHSA homeless count will be unveiled. Morrison explained that Social Services at Blessed Sacrament has changed its model of operation and has invited the Captain onto the board as an advisory member, and is attempting to be responsive to concerns raised. The center, which has been in existence for 12 years in the heart of Hollywood, has moved away from solely providing food and showers, to now focus on case management and housing coordination of clients. Morrison recommended that the Committee set up a date to tour the facility to see the good work which is being done there.

VII. Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 10 a.m. in Suite 200 of the Taft Building (1680 Vine St., Los Angeles, CA. 90028).

VIII. Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Committee Chair John Tronson at 11:30 a.m.